(a) whether the Government propose to set up a open trade centre somewhere in the country on the lines of Hong Kong; and

(b) if so, the location and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The Advisory Committee constituted to examine the desirability of setting up a Free Port in India has recommended its establishment in Goa. The Committee has also suggested Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu as an appropriate choice for a subsequent Free Port on the east Coast.

[*Translation*]

Training Exercises by Armed Forces

5960. SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the training exercises in bombarding the villages adjoining to the training areas are got vacated resulting in heavy losses of lives and property to the villagers:

(b) if so, whether any compensation is provided to them during this period;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance every year in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The villages falling within the boundaries of Field Firing Ranges are vacated during practice firing. The villages adjoining a Field Firing Range or outside it are not required to be vacated. Because of safety precuations taken prior to and during the practice firing, no heavy loss of life or property of the villagers have been reported except stray cases of accidental death or damage.

(b) and (c). The residents of the affected villages are paid compensation for the period of vacation of the Villages by them at the rates prescribed by the State Governments.

The amounts of compensation paid during the last 3 years are as under:-

1988-89 .. Rs. 52,73,972

1989-90 .. Rs. 99,56,845

1990-91 .. Rs. 22,88,546

(d) and (e). Compensation is already being paid whenever villages are vacated on account of practice firing. This arrangement will continue.

[*English*]

Removal of Restrictions on Export of onion

5961. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to lift the restrictions on the export of onion;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be lifted; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote the exports of onion in the interests of the onion growers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). Under the new export policy export of onion will continue to be canalised through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED)< so that there are no problems for the exports>

(c) The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited has taken various promotional steps such as scientific storage of onion, R & D facilities, educating onion growers for adopting new technique, transportation of onions by rail at competitive rates, adequate provision of shipping facilities, improvement in packaging condition etc.

Import and Export of Agricultural Products

5962. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of exports and imports of agricultural products during each of the last three years; and

(b) the percentage share of the agricultural products in the total exports and imports during the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). The information sought by the Hon'ble Member is available in the Economic Survey 1991-92 presented to Parliament by the Union Minister of Finance during the current Session of Parliament. Copies of the Economic Survey 1991-92 are available in Parliament Library.

Loans to Unemployed Youth In Maharashtra

5963. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The amount of loans given to unemployed youth and minority communities by various nationalised and other banks during each of the last three years upto March, 31 1992 in various districts of Maharashtra;

(b) the number of applications of above category rejected during the above period;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the plans and programmers of the Government to give loans and other financial assistance to unemployed youth and minority communities by the banks during 1992-93 and 1993-94 in the above State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). The amount of loans given to the unemployed youth under the scheme for providing self-Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) during the last three years i.e. 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 (upto January 1992) in the State of Maharashtra are Rs. 1493.12 lakhs. Rs1687.59 lakhs and Rs. 781.62 lakhs (date provisional) respectively. The data reporting system from banks does not generate information relating to the number of applications rejected. State-wise target for the number of beneficiaries under the SEEUY Scheme are fixed on year to year basis by the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries in the Ministry of Industry who administers the SEEUY Scheme. For the year 1992-93, they have not so far finalised the said targets. The question of fixing any target for the year 1993-94 does not, therefore, arise.

In Maharashtra, there are two districts